

## **GOP sat on multi-billionaire surplus for years, wanting to provide tax subsidies to their wealthiest friends & donors**

By: Senate Democratic Leader Melissa Agard

I firmly believe that tax relief should be targeted to the middle class families and main street businesses that continue to be the backbone of our state's economy. We started the legislative session with a historic \$7 billion surplus, which represented a chance to change the course of our state's future with deep, meaningful investments in our people and our communities.

Legislative Republicans squandered this opportunity to support the hardworking people of our state and instead chose to prioritize tax breaks for the wealthy over investments in Wisconsinites, which were vetoed by Governor Evers. Under the Republican tax plan, an individual earning \$40,000-\$50,000 would see an annual tax decrease of only \$88, while an individual making \$1 million - \$1.5 million would experience a more than \$11,000 tax decrease annually. Under their plan, Republicans provided each of Wisconsin's top 11 earners with a \$1.8 million dollar tax decrease annually, while middle class individuals were provided with crumbs.

I am angry that this extraordinary opportunity was thrown out the window by my GOP colleagues in favor of blind adherence to the dogma of tax cuts for the rich.

The State Legislature has been sitting on a multibillion dollar surplus for years. Governor Evers, my Democratic colleagues, and I have worked diligently to return these dollars to ordinary Wisconsinites in meaningful way, but have consistently faced GOP opposition.

In the beginning of 2022, our state's projected surplus was \$3.8 billion dollars. Recognizing the urgent need to get these dollars back into the hands of working Wisconsinites, Governor Evers called a special session to provide a \$150 surplus refund to every Wisconsin resident, deliver targeted relief for childcare and caregiver costs, and invest in education while holding the line on property taxes. The majority party gaveled in and quickly gaveled out of the special session without debate and without vote on the proposal.

Furthermore, at the beginning of this legislative session, Governor Evers delivered his 2023-25 budget proposal which included \$1.2 billion over the biennium in tax relief for low- and middle-income Wisconsinites, and specifically targeted folks with kids or those who especially those who provide care to family members.